

**II. REMARKS**

**A. Status**

Claims 1-12 were pending at the time of the last Office Action. Claims 13-16 are currently active for examination of which claim 13-16 are independent.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nikunen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0165939, “Nikunen”), in view of Cole (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,589, hereinafter “Cole”). Office Action at 2-9.

In this amendment, claims 1-12 have been cancelled and new claims 13-16 were added. Care has been exercised not to introduce new matter.

**B. Claims Are Not Obvious**

**1. Claims 1-12 Are Not Obvious**

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Nikunen in view of Cole. Office Action at 2-9. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Amendment at 2.

**2. New Claims 13-16 Would Not Obvious**

Applicant respectfully submits that while new claims 13-16 have not yet been examined, they would not be obvious over Nikunen in view of Cole. According to the present claims, the transmission from the second computer to the first computer is restricted, while the connection state can be confirmed and the data reception at the second computer can be confirmed at the first computer. For example, in independent claim 13, it is recited that, “...data transmission from the second computer to the first computer is restricted by...” and monitoring the signal is used “...to confirm a correction therebetween...” Amendment at 2. Independent claims 14-16 all contain similar limitations. *See* Amendment at 3-5.

Moreover, no new matter is added by the new independent claims. The feature of the new independent claims is shown in Fig. 2 and described in the specification, in which a terminal Tx+ is coupled to a terminal RX+ and a terminal Tx- is coupled to a terminal RX-. Application at 6-8; Fig. 2.

None of the cited references teach or suggest such a feature of the present claims whereby "a signal of the first computer is monitored by the first computer by coupling the transmission terminal of the transmission side connector to the confirm a connection state therebetween." Thus, new claims 13-16 would not obvious because combining Nikunen with Cole could never serve as a basis for rejecting claims 13-16 as obvious.

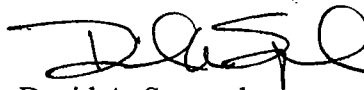
### **III. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



David A. Spenard

Registration No. 37,449

600 13<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3096  
Phone: 202.756.8000 DAS:lcb  
Facsimile: 202.756.8087  
**Date: December 10, 2007**

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